

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJECT: DIFFERENCES ON MANILA PACT AND UK PROPOSALS

1. THE UK HAS INFORMALLY PROPOSED A POSSIBLE FALL-BACK POSITION IF THE PHILIPPINES PERSIST IN ADVOCATING THE TERMINATION OF THE MANILA PACT ALONG WITH THE SEATO ORGANIZATION. INSTEAD OF THE PREFERRED PHRASE "REAFFIRMING THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE" (PARAGRAPH C3(B) OF SEATO CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENT SCM/75/D-4), THE UK SUGGESTS THE DRAFT MIGHT READ "DECIDED TO REMIT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY."

2. THE UK FEARS A UNILATERAL PHILIPPINE RENUNCIATION OF THE PACT AND BELIEVES THAT SUCH A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE OFFERED IF THE PHILIPPINES ARE ADAMANT IN REJECTING THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS.

3. SHOULD THE PHILIPPINES DECIDE TO OPT OUT OF THE MANILA PACT IN ANY CASE, THE UK SUGGESTS THE REMAINING FIVE MIGHT STILL PREFER LANGUAGE SUCH AS "TAKING NOTE OF THE FILIPINO DECISION ON TREATY MEMBERSHIP, DECIDED TO REMIT

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY."

4. OUR POSITION CONTINUES TO BE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THAT OF THE THAI AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE RESULTS OF THAI CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

5. SHOULD A COMPROMISE BE FOUND DESIRABLE AS A FALL-BACK POSITION IN CASE OF PHILIPPINE OBSTINACY, WE BELIEVE OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAN THE UK PROPOSAL MIGHT BE PREFERABLE. ONE VERSION MIGHT BE "DECIDED TO RETAIN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY AT THIS TIME BUT TO STUDY ITS FUTURE UTILITY IN LIGHT OF THE PHASE-OUT OF SEATO AND CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN THE AREA DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD." ANOTHER SOLUTION WOULD BE SIMPLY TO OMIT THE SENTENCE ABOUT RETAINING THE MANILA TREATY ON THE THEORY THAT THE TREATY WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE UNLESS IT WERE EXPRESSLY STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN TERMINATED. ALL PARTIES COULD THEN INTERPRET AS THEY WISHED WHETHER THE TREATY REMAINED IN FORCE OR NOT. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM WITH

THE LATTER SOLUTION, IF NO PRESS CLARIFICATION FOLLOWED, WOULD BE A WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT THE TREATY AND SEATO WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL, A FACTOR THAT MIGHT LIMIT USG ABILITY TO ACT ON THE TREATY IN CASE OF NEED BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SKEPTICISM THAT AN OBLIGATION CONTINUED TO EXIST.

6. FOR BANGKOK AND USUN. YOU SHOULD ASCERTAIN FROM APPROPRIATE THAI OFFICIAL WHETHER THAILAND HAS APPROACHED PHILIPPINES YET ON MANILA TREATY AND RESULTS OF ANY SUCH EXCHANGE. YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS POTENTIAL FALL-BACKS WITH THAI OR OTHER MEMBERS AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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